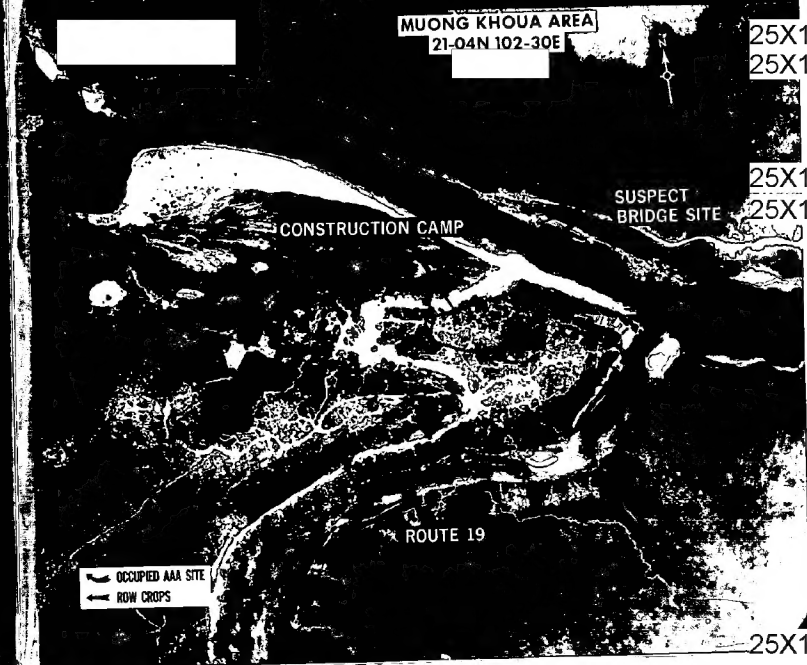
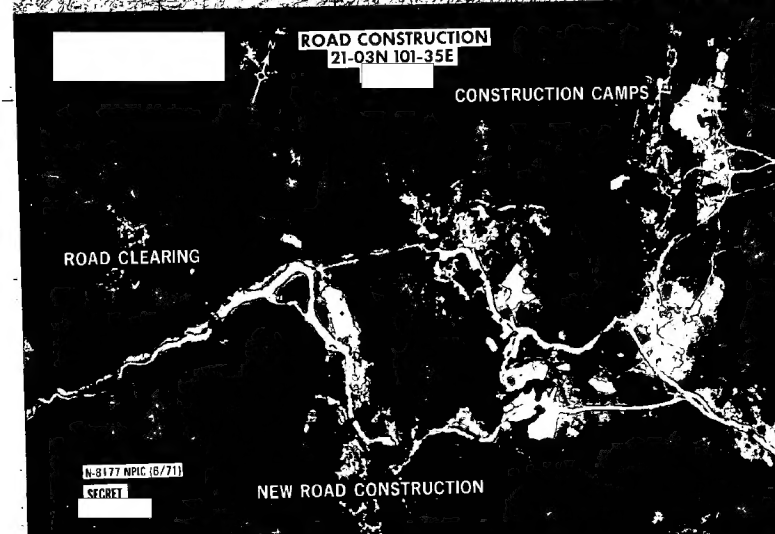
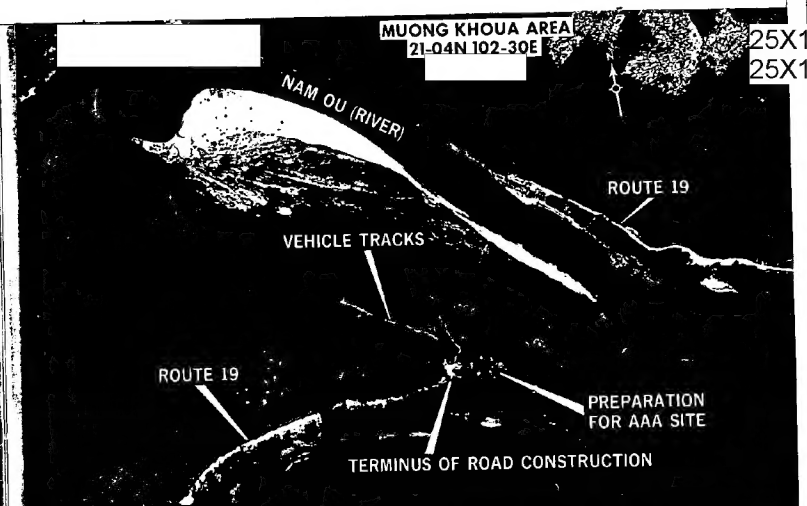
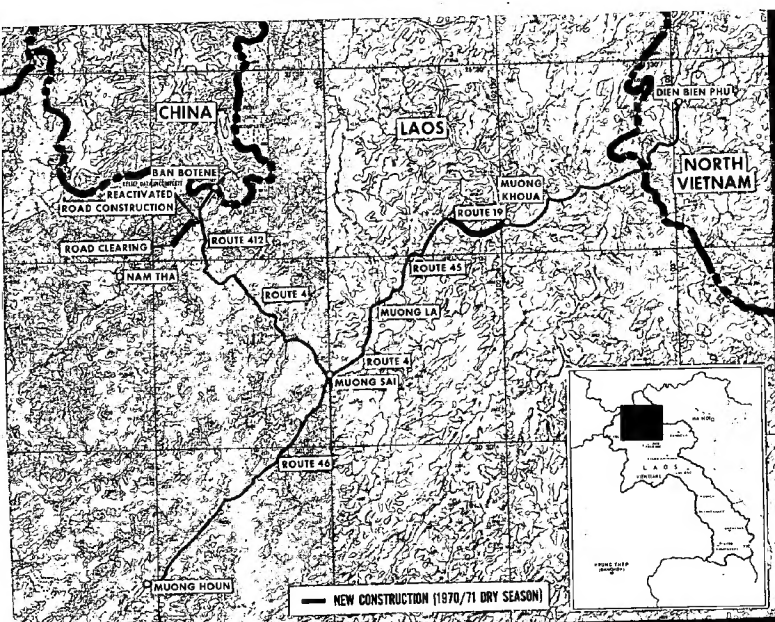


CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION 1970-1971 DRY SEASON NORTHERN LAOS

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Page 1 of 3

REFERENCE TO:

CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION
1970-1971 DRY SEASON
NORTHERN LAOS

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1. SIGNIFICANCE:

CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION HAS CONTINUED IN
NORTHERN LAOS DURING THE 1970-1971 DRY
SEASON.

2. BACKGROUND:

THE CHINESE BEGAN BUILDING A ROAD NETWORK IN
NORTHERN LAOS IN NOVEMBER 1968. THE ROAD
SYSTEM INITIALLY EXTENDED FROM YUNNAN
PROVINCE IN SOUTH CHINA ACROSS THE CHINA/LAOS
BORDER NEAR THE LAOTIAN TOWN OF BAN BOTENE
AND PROCEEDED SOUTHEAST TOWARD MUONG SAI. BY
THE SPRING OF 1969 THIS ROAD HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED
TO MUONG SAI AND WAS THEN EXTENDED NORTHEAST
TO MUONG LA. DURING THE DRY SEASON OF 1969-1970
THE CHINESE CONTINUED THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION
SOUTHWEST FROM MUONG SAI DOWN THE PAK BENG VALLEY
TO MUONG HOUN AND NORTHEAST BEYOND MUONG LA
TOWARD MUONG KHOUA.

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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10 June 1971

Page 2 of 3

3. PAST COVERAGE: CHINESE ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN NORTHERN LAOS HAS BEEN COVERED ON NUMEROUS GIANT SCALE (GS), GIANT NAIL (GA), AND LOW-ALTITUDE (YE, YT) RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS SINCE 1969.

4. MISSION READOUT: THE CHINESE HAVE ADDED RELATIVELY FEW MILES TO THIS ROAD NETWORK DURING THE 1970-1971 DRY SEASON. THE MAJOR EFFORT DURING THIS SEASON HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED ON BUILDING NEW BRIDGES AND CULVERTS, RESURFACING MUCH OF THE EXISTING ROAD NETWORK, AND BUILDING NEW ANTI-AIRCRAFT EMPLACEMENTS AND WORK CAMPS. ROW CROP-TYPE CULTIVATED AREAS WERE OBSERVED AT THE MORE PERMANENT WORK SITES.

NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION HAS CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF EXTENDING ROUTE 19 NORTHEAST THROUGH MUONG KHOUA TO THE NAM OU (RIVER) AND REACTIVATING CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ROAD SOUTH OF BAN BOTENE. THIS NEW ROAD WILL PROBABLY CONNECT ROUTE 412 WITH NAM THA (SEE INSET). CONSTRUCTION OF CULVERTS AND BRIDGES, IN PARTICULAR TWO BRIDGES NEAR MUONG HOUN, AND PREPARATION FOR THE RIVER CROSSING AT MUONG KHOUA (PRESUMABLY A BRIDGE) HAS REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. PHOTOGRAPHY OF

 SHOW BY COMPARISON THE EXTENT OF ACTIVITY AT MUONG KHOUA DURING THIS TIME INTERVAL.

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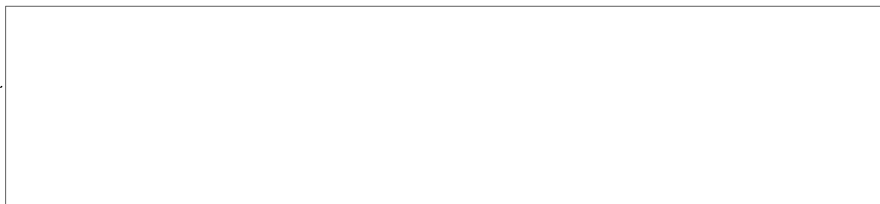
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10 June 1971

Page 3 of 3



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ENLARGEMENTS: ONE 20X, TWO 15X

IEG/EGD/SEAB

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